

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1737

Introduced by Assembly Member Chávez

February 14, 2014

An act to amend Section 974.5 of the Military and Veterans Code, relating to veterans.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1737, as introduced, Chávez. County veteran service centers: interagency agreements.

Existing law establishes various state benefits for veterans, and authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs to assist veterans and their dependents. Existing law authorizes a county board of supervisors to appoint a county veterans service officer to perform certain veteran-related services. Existing law also authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Employment Development Department to enter into interagency agreements with individual counties that elect to participate, to provide resources and staff, or both, as necessary to locate within a single facility owned by the participating county, under the coordination of the county veteran service director, a more complete and convenient local service program for veterans that is nonduplicative and does not conflict with any federal one-stop service program.

This bill would remove references to the Employment Development Department from the above-described provisions, thereby vesting sole authority for the interagency agreements with the Department of Veterans Affairs. The bill also would make related technical changes.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 974.5 of the Military and Veterans Code is amended to read:

974.5. (a) The purpose of this section is to provide a mechanism to facilitate the delivery of complete, efficient, information and other services to veterans in a convenient setting.

(b) By July 1, 1999, the Department of Veterans Affairs ~~and the Department of Employment Development~~ may enter into interagency agreements with individual counties that elect to participate in the program pursuant to this section, after a determination that services to be provided pursuant to this section are not otherwise being provided ~~and would, thus, thus would~~ not be duplicated. Services provided pursuant to this section shall not be contrary to the purposes of, nor shall they be in conflict with, any one-stop service program provided under federal guidelines. Pursuant to the agreements, the ~~departments~~ *department* may agree to provide resources and staff, or both, as necessary, to locate within a single facility owned by the participating county, under the coordination of the county veteran service director, a more complete and convenient local service program for veterans.

(c) The veteran service center shall be staffed with persons knowledgeable in employment and veterans benefits issues, and shall contain all necessary resources, information, forms, and other materials necessary for a veteran to receive full employment assistance and a complete assessment of veterans benefits to which he or she is entitled.

~~(d) The Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Employment Development, after consulting with participating counties, shall jointly report to the Legislature by January 1, 2002, regarding the progress of the program.~~